

**CITY OF OWOSSO
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
THURSDAY, MAY 02, 2024**

PRESENT: Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Susan J. Osika, Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Jerome C. Haber, Daniel A. Law, Emily S. Olson and Nicholas L. Pidek.

ABSENT: None.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

City Manager Henne explained the special nature of this evening's meeting saying this would be the first of what will be an annual event involving a joint meeting of the City Council, the Planning Commission, and the Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Board. This joint meeting fulfills a requirement of the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program, helping to move the City forward in its journey to obtain the RRC designation. This meeting also represents the Council's annual opportunity to meet with all of the City's Department Managers collectively.

2024-2025 Recommended Budget. City Manager Henne delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the 2024-2025 Recommended Budget. Total revenues of \$38.4 million for the 24-25 FY are anticipated with expenditures currently budgeted at \$44.0 million. The resulting \$5.5 million shortfall will be absorbed by fund balance. Mr. Henne warned that the gap between taxable value and assessed value continues to grow each year making it more and more difficult to make any headway to reduce the City's long list of necessary maintenance and repairs. These structural issues with the state's tax system persist until the laws are changed. Despite these challenges, the City will continue to replace lead water service lines in the coming year, but huge increases in construction costs and cash flow issues will severely limit other plans. Smaller projects are being proposed to tackle long-standing maintenance and IT issues at City Hall. One bright spot will be the housing program which is projected to receive a \$400,000 grant this year. And a number of pieces of equipment will be purchased for the DPW using the fleet fund. After the conclusion of the presentation Councilmembers sought answers to their individual questions and discussed liability issues and funding issues, as well as trying to come up with a long-term strategy to stabilize the street system in spite of structural funding shortfalls. City Manager Henne indicated that there is still time between now and when the budget is approved to answer questions and amend the proposed budget.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were no citizen comments.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 06, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2024

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2025

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2024

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor
Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

Note: Complete printed copies of the minutes and any ordinances contained therein are available to the public at the Office of the City Clerk and the Shiawassee District Library – Owosso Branch during regular business hours or on the Internet at www.ci.owosso.mi.us.

